MARVEL COMICS
QUASAR
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JAN
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WHEN TITANS THROW DOWN! IT'S HYPERION™ VS. GLADIATOR!™
STARBLAST CROSSOVER
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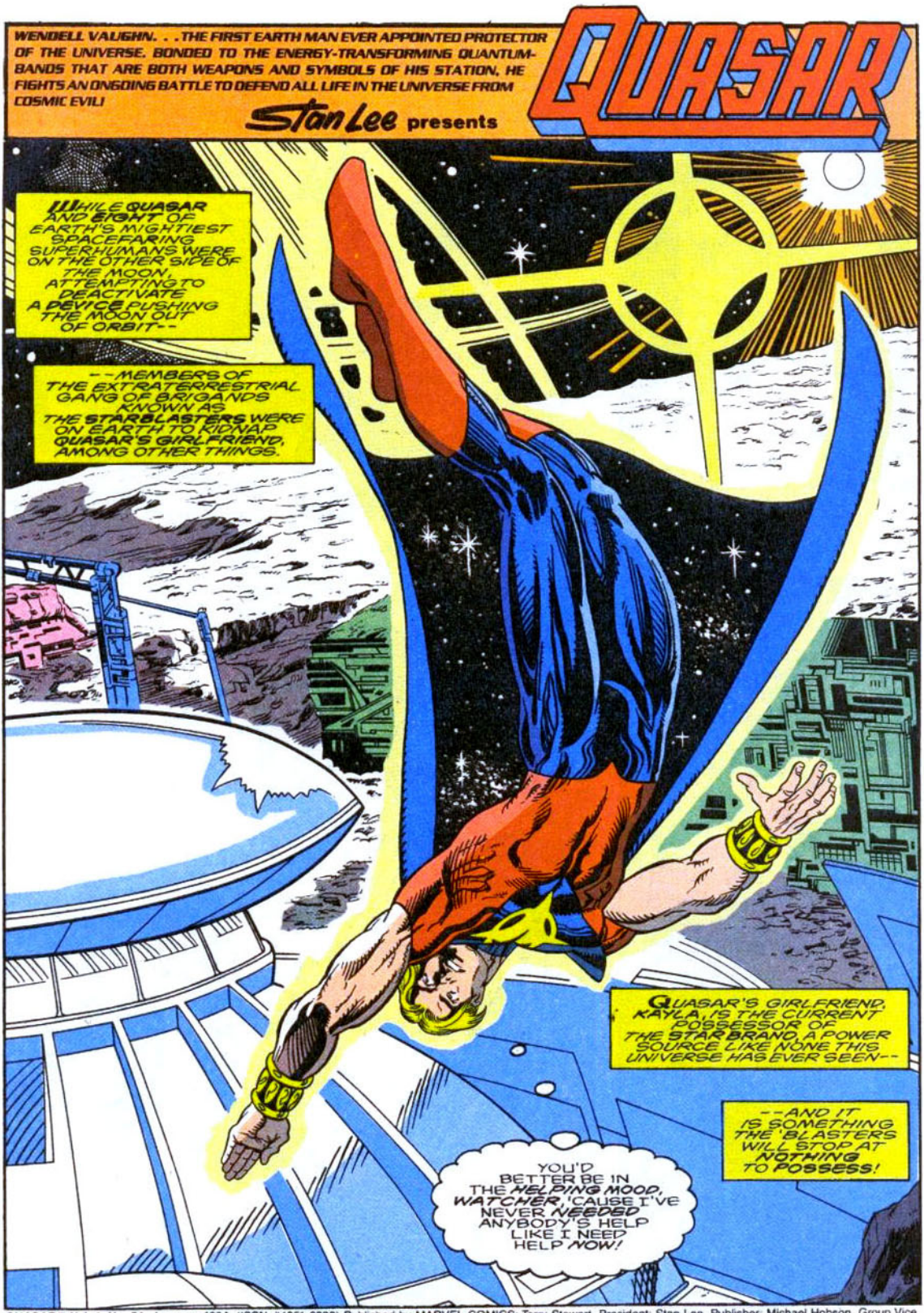
DAY 93.
DIRECT EDITION
HEEBINK


WENDELL VAUGHN. . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL!
Stan Lee presents
QUASAR
WHILE QUASAR AND EIGHT OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST SPACEFARING SUPERHUMANS WERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOON, ATTEMPTING TO DEACTIVATE A DEVICE PUSHING THE MOON OUT OF ORBIT--
--MEMBERS OF THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL GANG OF BRIGANDS KNOWN AS THE STARBLASTERS WERE ON EARTH TO KIDNAP QUASAR'S GIRLFRIEND, AMONG OTHER THINGS.
QUASAR'S GIRLFRIEND, KAYLA, IS THE CURRENT POSSESSOR OF THE STAR BRAND, A POWER SOURCE LIKE NONE THIS UNIVERSE HAS EVER SEEN--
--AND IT IS SOMETHING THE 'BLASTERS WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO POSSESS!
YOU'D BETTER BE IN THE HELPING MOOD, WATCHER, 'CAUSE I'VE NEVER NEEDED ANYBODY'S HELP LIKE I NEED HELP NOW!

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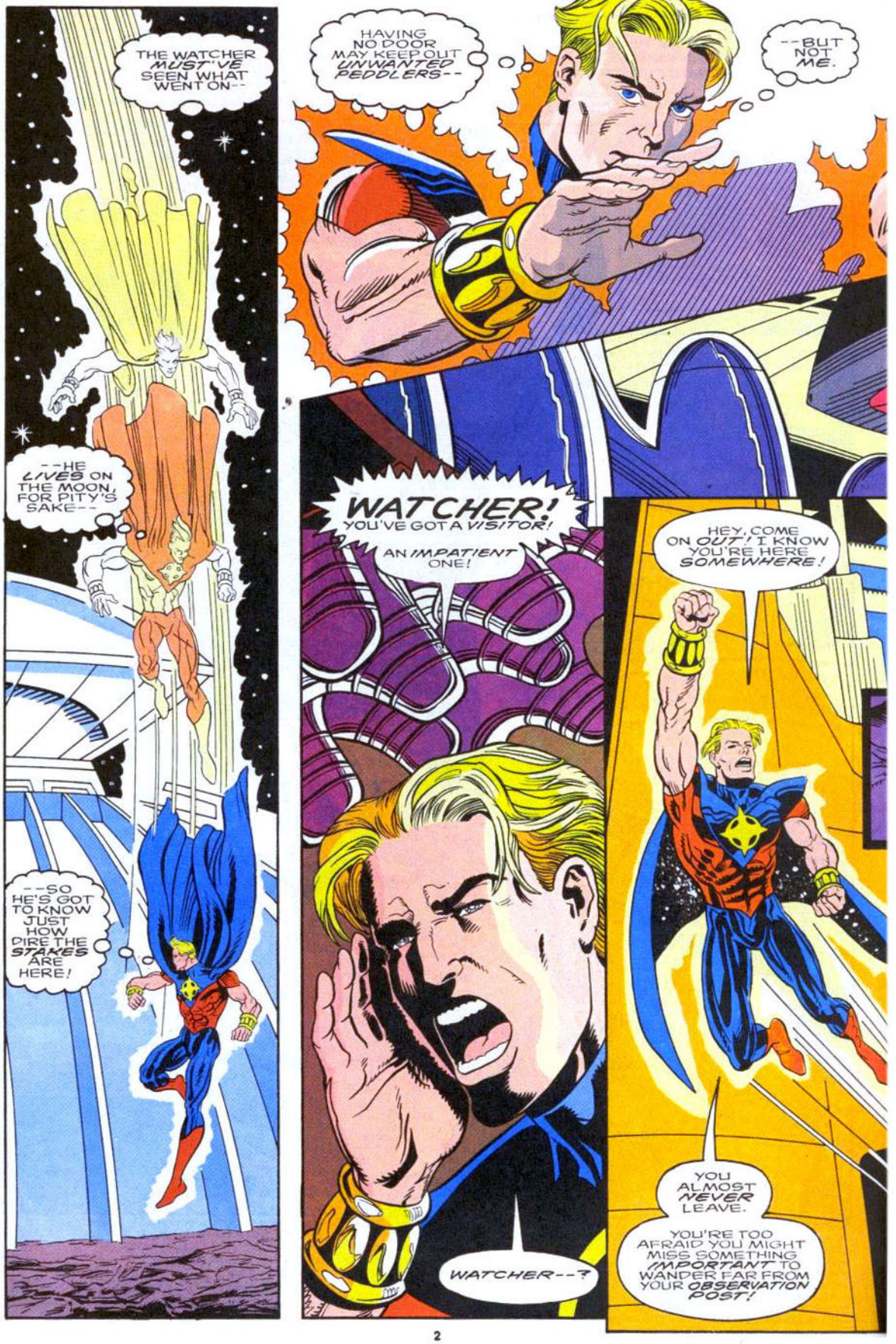
THE WATCHER MUST'VE SEEN WHAT WENT ON--
--HE LIVES ON THE MOON, FOR PITY'S SAKE--
--SO HE'S GOT TO KNOW JUST HOW DIRE THE STAKES ARE HERE!
HAVING NO DOOR MAY KEEP OUT UNWANTED PEDDLERS--
--BUT NOT ME.
WATCHER! YOU'VE GOT A VISITOR!
AN IMPATIENT ONE!
WATCHER--?
HEY, COME ON OUT! I KNOW YOU'RE HERE SOMEWHERE!
YOU ALMOST NEVER LEAVE.
YOU'RE TOO AFRAID YOU MIGHT MISS SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO WANDER FAR FROM YOUR OBSERVATION POST!

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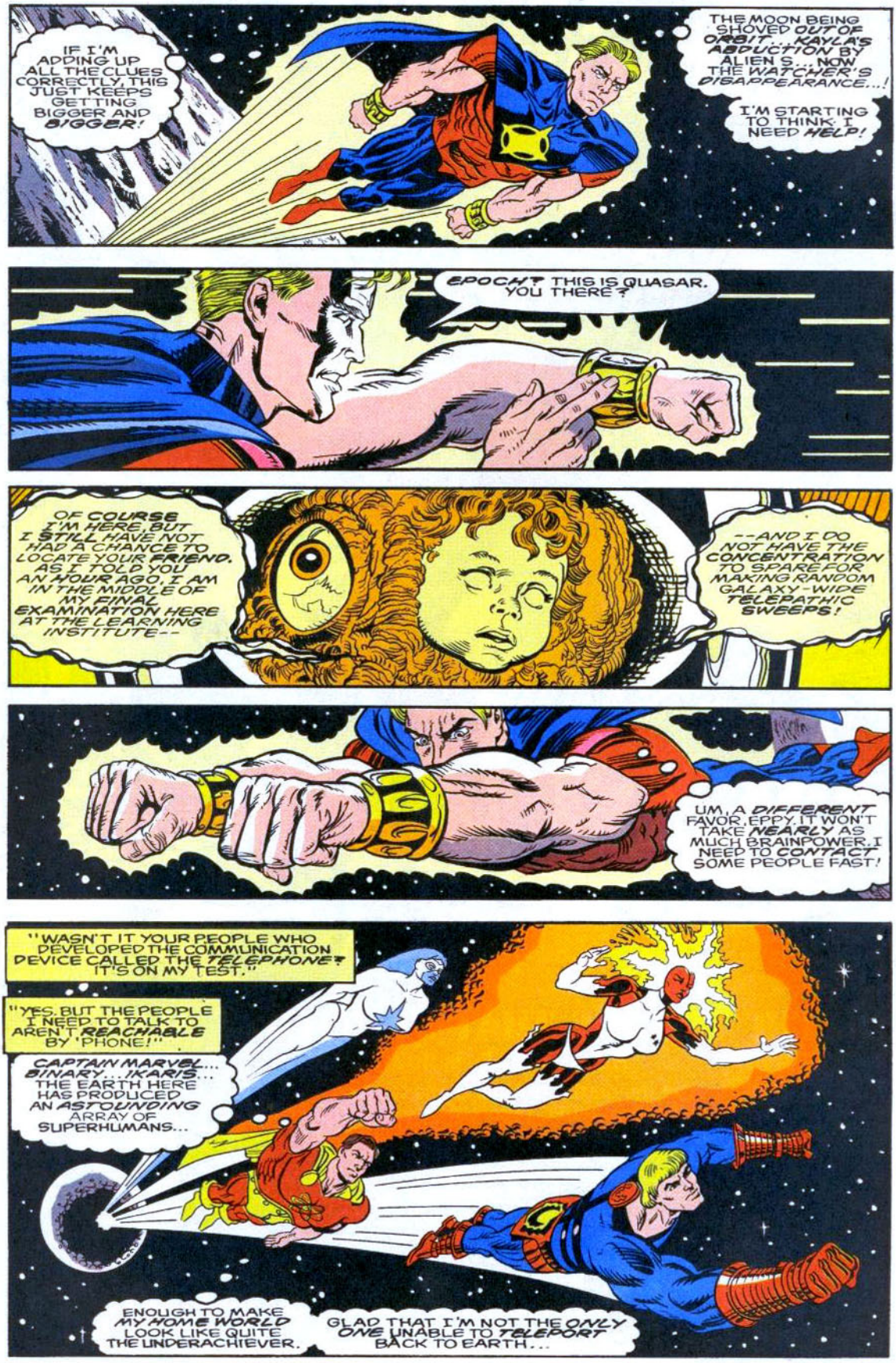
WEIRD! THIS IS THE FOURTH TIME I'VE BEEN HERE, AND ALL THE OTHER TIMES THE WATCHER'S MET ME SOMEWHERE SO I DON'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SNOOP TOO MUCH.
WHERE THE HECK IS HE THIS TIME?
COULD HE ACTUALLY BE DOING SOME FIELD WORK-- MAYBE CHECKING OUT THE IMPACT SITE OF THE MOONTHRUSTER DEVICE...?
WATCHER! WHERE ARE YOU?!
HMMM...

WAIT--I DIDN'T CHECK OUT HIS FAVORITE ROOM--HIS VIEWING CHAMBER!
HEY--WHAT'S THIS? SCORCH MARKS?
LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS A BLAST HERE... YEAH--WEIRD PARTICULATE RESIDUE.
THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE MOONTHRUSTER DEVICE A BUNCH OF US WERE TRYING TO DEACTIVATE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOON?*
MAYBE THE CREEPS WHO PLANTED IT WERE ALSO HERE?
WAIT-A-MINUTE! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE WATCHER WAS IN A STRUGGLE WITH SOMEBODY, AND HE LOST?!?
WHAT KIND OF POWER COULD TAKE OUT AN ALL-SEEING WATCHER?!?
*IN THE FIRST THRILL-CHOCKED ISSUE OF STARBLAST!--MIKE


IF I'M ADDING UP ALL THE CLUES CORRECTLY, THIS JUST KEEPS GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER!
THE MOON BEING SHOVED OUT OF ORBIT... KAYLA'S ABDUCTION BY ALIEN S... NOW THE WATCHER'S DISAPPEARANCE...!
I'M STARTING TO THINK I NEED HELP!
EPOCH?! THIS IS QUASAR. YOU THERE?
OF COURSE I'M HERE, BUT I STILL HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO LOCATE YOUR FRIEND. AS I TOLD YOU AN HOUR AGO, I AM IN THE MIDDLE OF MY FINAL EXAMINATION HERE AT THE LEARNING INSTITUTE--
--AND I DO NOT HAVE THE CONCENTRATION TO SPARE FOR MAKING RANDOM GALAXY-WIDE TELEPATHIC SWEEPS!
UM, A DIFFERENT FAVOR, EPPY. IT WON'T TAKE NEARLY AS MUCH BRAINPOWER. I NEED TO CONTACT SOME PEOPLE FAST!
"WASN'T IT YOUR PEOPLE WHO DEVELOPED THE COMMUNICATION DEVICE CALLED THE TELEPHONE? IT'S ON MY TEST."
"YES, BUT THE PEOPLE I NEED TO TALK TO AREN'T REACHABLE BY 'PHONE!'"
CAPTAIN MARVEL.... BINARY... IKARIS... THE EARTH HERE HAS PRODUCED AN ASTOUNDING ARRAY OF SUPERHUMANS...
ENOUGH TO MAKE MY HOME WORLD LOOK LIKE QUITE THE UNDERACHIEVER.
GLAD THAT I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE UNABLE TO TELEPORT BACK TO EARTH...

HOLD--A SPACECRAFT LEAVING EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE--MANNED, BY THE LOOKS OF IT.

THAT IS NOT A U.S. SHIP!

ANNOYING TO BE UNABLE TO *SPEAK* WITH ANYONE ELSE IN THE AIRLESS VOID OF SPACE--

--BUT THEY ALL SEEM AS *CURIOUS* ABOUT THE SHIP AS I AM!

EVEN AS THE FOUR EARTHBOUND HEROES CIRCLE, LOOKING FOR A WAY IN...

...TWO MOONBOUND HEROES EXIT THE AIRLOCK...

WHAT IS THIS? THEY SEEM TO BE GESTURING FOR US TO *ACCOMPANY THEM* TO THEIR *CRAFT*!

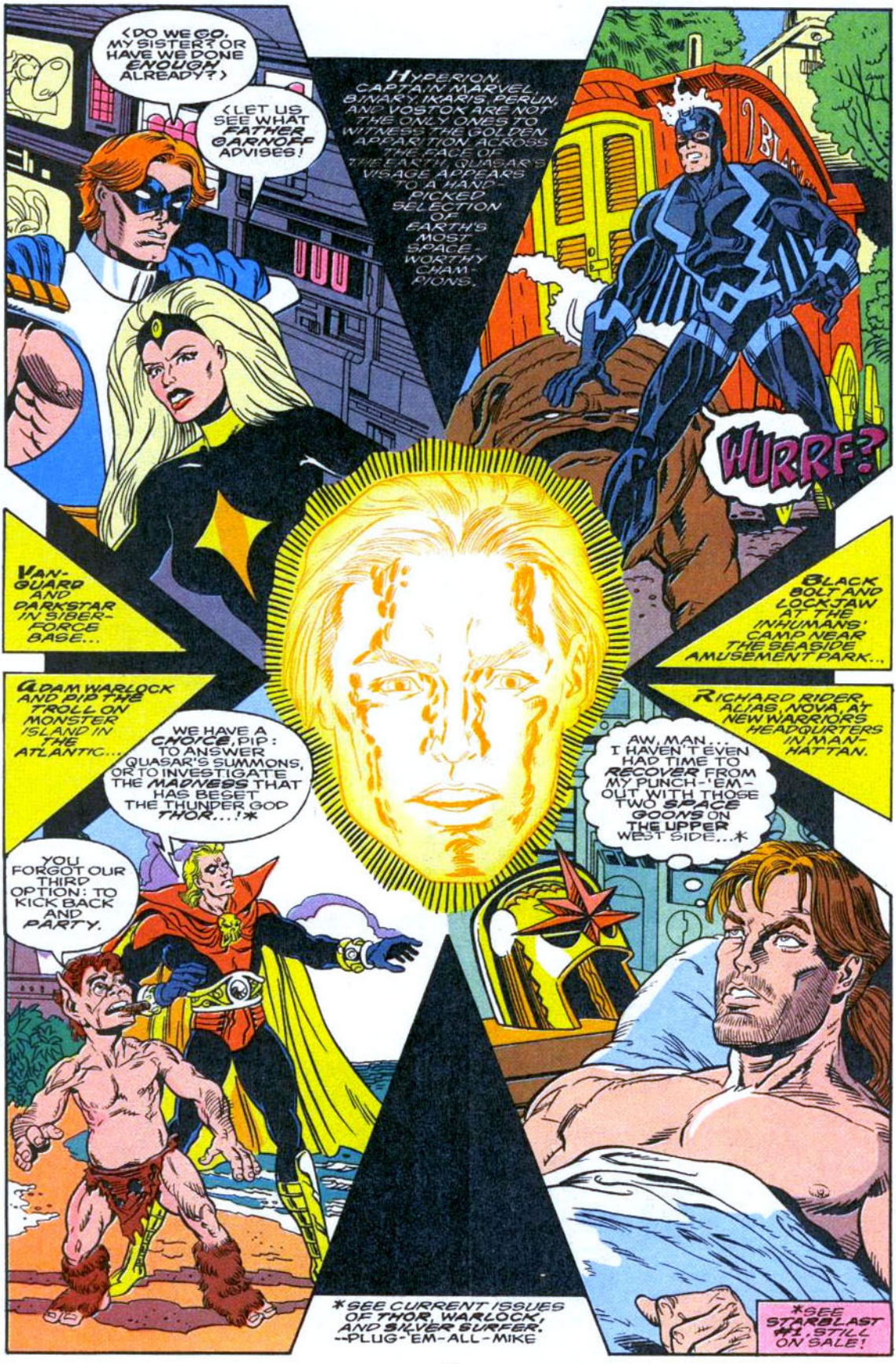
BUT THEN--

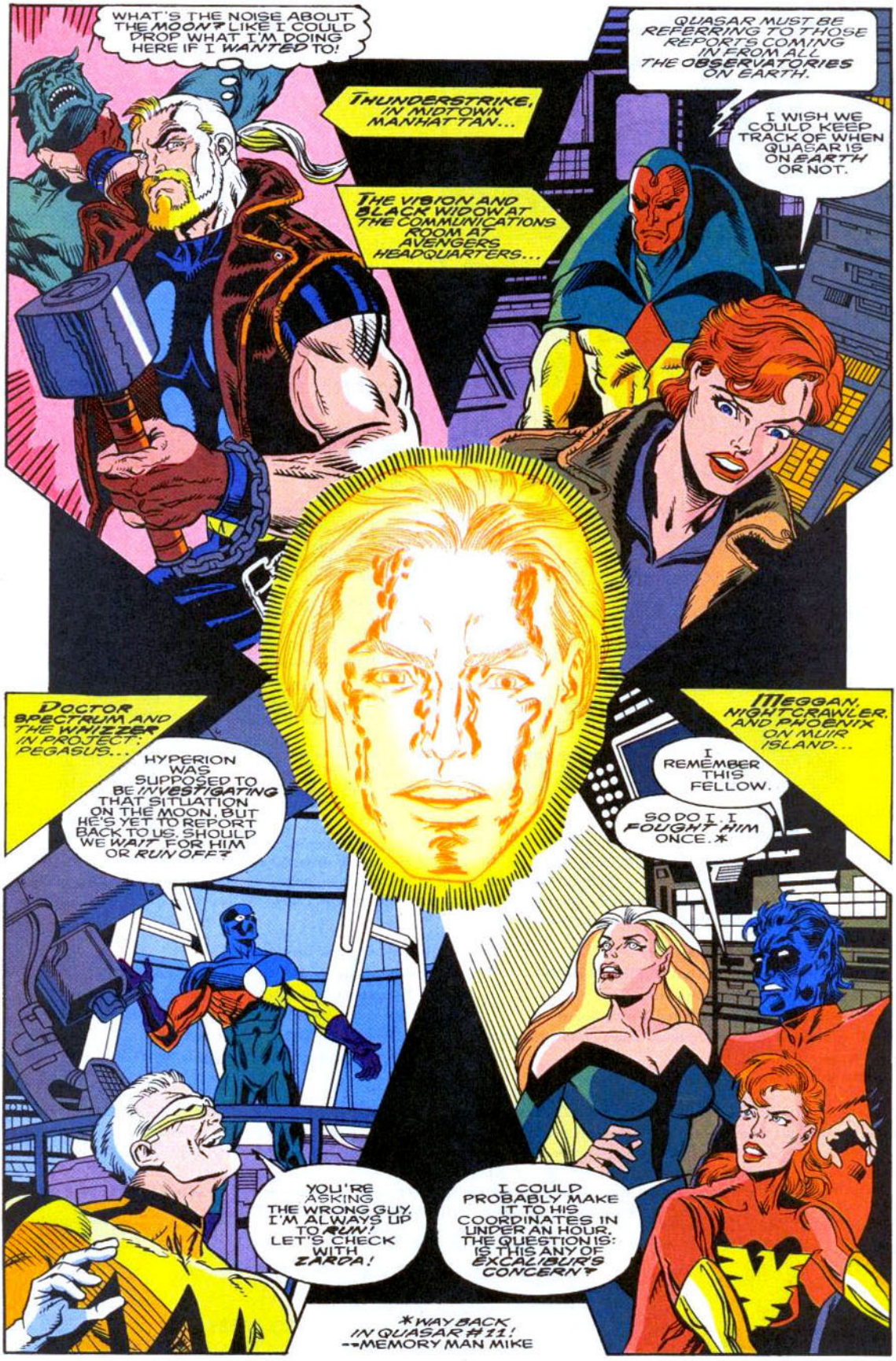
HI, THIS IS **QUASAR**, SPEAKING TO YOU VIA A QUANTUM HOLOGRAM.

I NEED **HELP**. THE BUSINESS WITH THE MOON BEING PUSHED TOWARD THE EARTH WAS JUST A **SUBTERFUGE** FOR WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON. AND I THINK IT'S **SOMETHING BIG**.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN **FOLLOWING UP** ON THIS, MEET ME AT THE FOLLOWING **COORDINATES**.

THEIR NAMES--**PERUN** AND **VOSTOK**. THEIR ALLEGIANCE--THE **PEOPLE'S PROTECTORATE OF RUSSIA**!


〈DO WE GO, MY SISTER? OR HAVE WE DONE ENOUGH ALREADY?〉
〈LET US SEE WHAT FATHER GARNOFF ADVISES!
HYPERION, CAPTAIN MARVEL, BINARY, IKARIS, PERUN, AND VOSTOK ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES TO WITNESS THE GOLDEN APPARITION ACROSS THE FACE OF THE EARTH. QUASAR'S VISAGE APPEARS TO A HAND-PICKED SELECTION OF EARTH'S MOST SPACE-WORTHY CHAMPIONS.
WURRF?
VANGUARD AND DARKSTAR IN SIBERFORCE BASE...
BLACK BOLT AND LOCKJAW AT THE INHUMANS' CAMP NEAR THE SEASIDE AMUSEMENT PARK...
ADAM WARLOCK AND PIP THE TROLL ON MONSTER ISLAND IN THE ATLANTIC...
WE HAVE A CHOICE, PIP: TO ANSWER QUASAR'S SUMMONS, OR TO INVESTIGATE THE MADNESS THAT HAS BESET THE THUNDER GOD THOR...!*
YOU FORGOT OUR THIRD OPTION: TO KICK BACK AND PARTY.
RICHARD RIDER, ALIAS, NOVA, AT NEW WARRIORS HEADQUARTERS IN MANHATTAN.
AW, MAN... I HAVEN'T EVEN HAD TIME TO RECOVER FROM MY PUNCH-'EM-OUT WITH THOSE TWO SPACE GOONS ON THE UPPER WEST SIDE...*
*SEE CURRENT ISSUES OF THOR, WARLOCK, AND SILVER SURFER. --PLUG-'EM-ALL-MIKE
*SEE STARBLAST #1, STILL ON SALE!


WHAT'S THE NOISE ABOUT THE MOON? LIKE I COULD DROP WHAT I'M DOING HERE IF I WANTED TO!
THUNDERSTRIKE, IN MIDTOWN MANHATTAN...
THE VISION AND BLACK WIDOW AT THE COMMUNICATIONS ROOM AT AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS...
QUASAR MUST BE REFERRING TO THOSE REPORTS COMING IN FROM ALL THE OBSERVATORIES ON EARTH.
I WISH WE COULD KEEP TRACK OF WHEN QUASAR IS ON EARTH OR NOT.
DOCTOR SPECTRUM AND THE WHIZZER IN PROJECT: PEGASUS...
HYPERION WAS SUPPOSED TO BE INVESTIGATING THAT SITUATION ON THE MOON, BUT HE'S YET TO REPORT BACK TO US. SHOULD WE WAIT FOR HIM OR RUN OFF?
YOU'RE ASKING THE WRONG GUY. I'M ALWAYS UP TO RUN! LET'S CHECK WITH ZARDA!
I COULD PROBABLY MAKE IT TO HIS COORDINATES IN UNDER AN HOUR. THE QUESTION IS: IS THIS ANY OF EXCALIBUR'S CONCERN?
MEGGAN, NIGHTCRAWLER, AND PHOENIX ON MUIR ISLAND...
I REMEMBER THIS FELLOW.
SO DO I. I FOUGHT HIM ONCE.*
*WAY BACK IN QUASAR #11! --MEMORY MAN MIKE

AND AT THE EDGE OF EARTH'S EXOSPHERE...

THANKS FOR YOUR *HELP*, EPPY! THAT WAS GREAT.

NOW I *REALLY* MUST ATTEND TO MY *STUDIES!*

GOTCHA.

JUST CREATE MY PIE IN THE SKY *MEETING PLACE*...

...SOMETHING TO *SIT* ON...

...AND NOW WAIT FOR SOMEBODY TO *SHOW UP.*

BDRRAP BDRRAP

ASSUMING SOMEONE *WILL.*

SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THE MOON'S ORBIT...
‹GLADIATOR'S IN. SECURE THE AIRLOCK.›
‹RECONNAISSANCE REPORT?›
WE WERE *WISE* TO REMAIN AFTER THAT BUSINESS WITH THAT HUMAN *NOVA.* SOME *NOTEWORTHY THINGS* ARE GOING ON IN THIS SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE ABDUCTION OF A *WATCHER* BY PARTIES UNKNOWN.
*IN NOVA VOL. 2, NO. 1, STILL ON SALE. -- M.
‹I RECOMMEND *FURTHER* INVESTIGATION.›
‹VERY WELL. I WILL NOTIFY THE *HOMEWORLD.*›

QUASAR'S PLATFORM...

AH--SOME OF MY FAVORITE *TELEPORTERS*. LONG TIME NO SEE!

SPARE US YOUR *AMERICAN HUMOR*, QUASAR, AND TELL US OF THE *URGENT MATTER* YOU SO CRYPTICALLY ALLUDED TO.

JUST THE *FACTS*, HUH?

WELL, I'D PREFER TO WAIT A BIT TO SEE IF *ANYBODY ELSE* IS GOING TO SHOW, BUT...

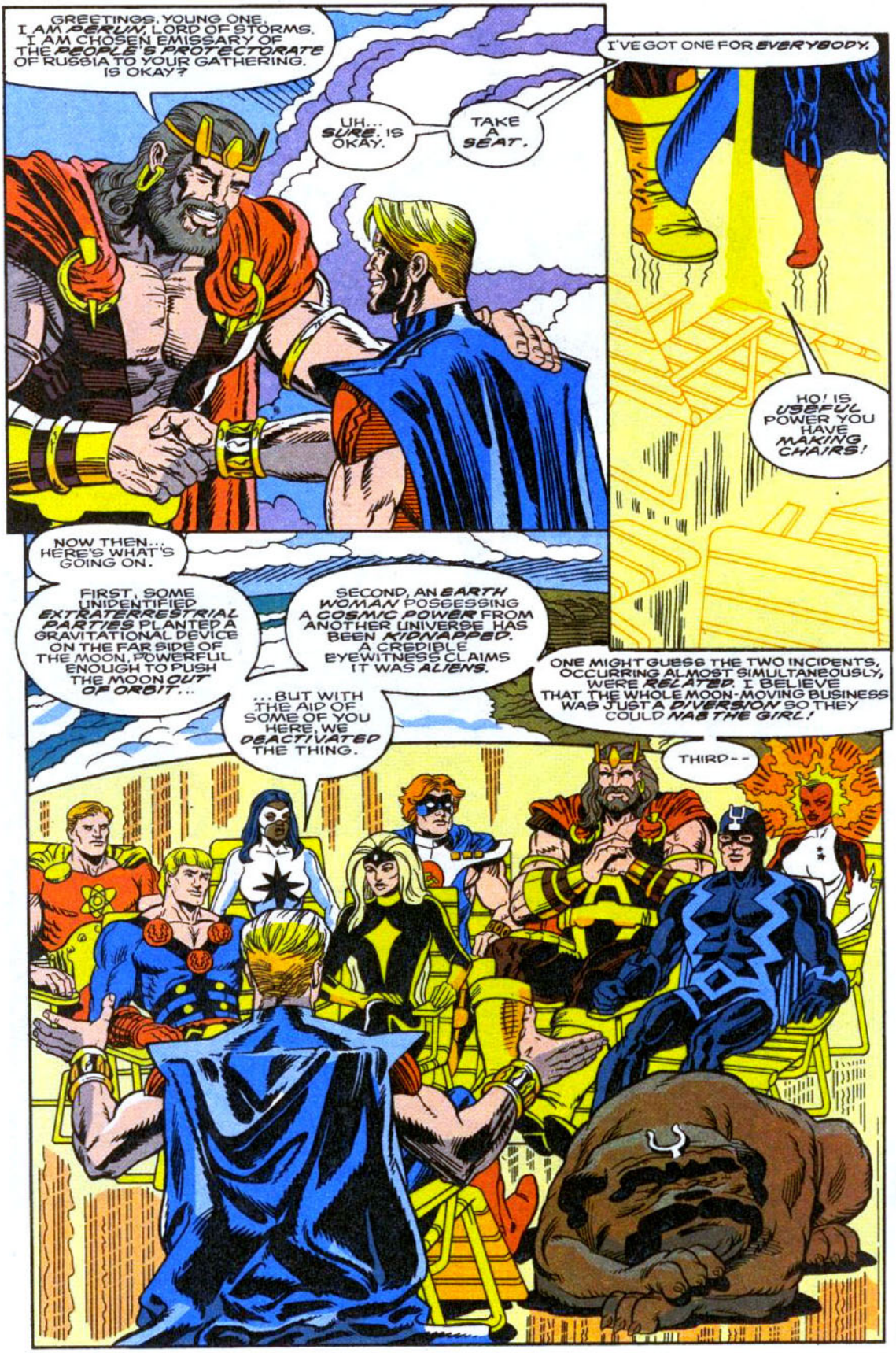
ANY OF YOU KNOW WHO THE *WATCHER* IS?

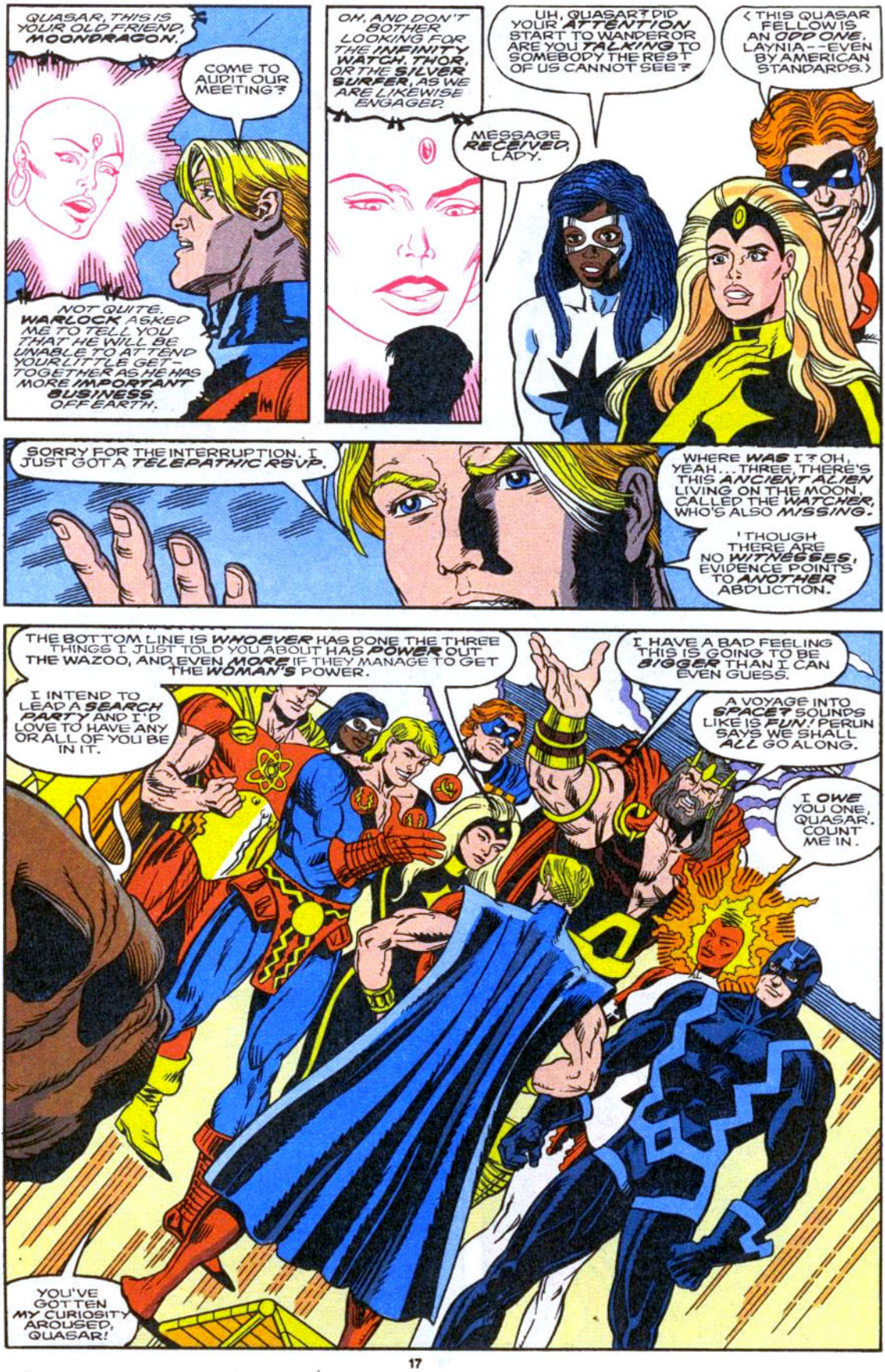
BUT AS QUASAR EXPLAINS...

HI, QUAZE! WE GOT HERE AS SOON AS WE *COULD*!

NEXT TIME YOU MIGHT ARRANGE FOR *TELE-TRANSPORT* FOR US ALL!

PERHAPS NOW I'LL LEARN THE *NAMES* OF SOME OF THE OTHERS WHO FOUGHT *ALONGSIDE ME* ON THE MOON.

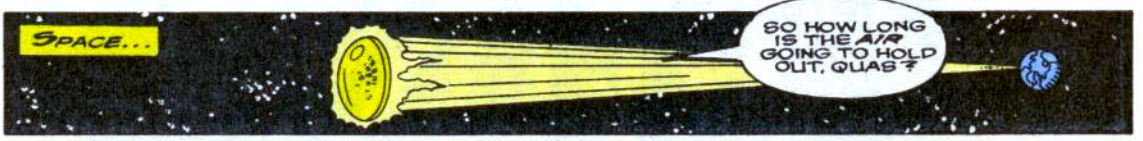

GREETINGS, YOUNG ONE. I AM PERUN, LORD OF STORMS. I AM CHOSEN EMISSARY OF THE PEOPLE'S PROTECTORATE OF RUSSIA TO YOUR GATHERING. IS OKAY?
UH... SURE. IS OKAY.
TAKE A SEAT.
I'VE GOT ONE FOR EVERYBODY.
HO! IS USEFUL POWER YOU HAVE MAKING CHAIRS!
NOW THEN... HERE'S WHAT'S GOING ON.
FIRST, SOME UNIDENTIFIED EXTRATERRESTRIAL PARTIES PLANTED A GRAVITATIONAL DEVICE ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON, POWERFUL ENOUGH TO PUSH THE MOON OUT OF ORBIT...
SECOND, AN EARTH WOMAN POSSESSING A COSMIC POWER FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED. A CREDIBLE EYEWITNESS CLAIMS IT WAS ALIENS.
ONE MIGHT GUESS THE TWO INCIDENTS, OCCURRING ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY, WERE RELATED. I BELIEVE THAT THE WHOLE MOON-MOVING BUSINESS WAS JUST A DIVERSION SO THEY COULD NAB THE GIRL!
...BUT WITH THE AID OF SOME OF YOU HERE, WE DEACTIVATED THE THING.
THIRD--


QUASAR, THIS IS YOUR OLD FRIEND, MOONDRAGON.
COME TO AUDIT OUR MEETING?
NOT QUITE. WARLOCK ASKED ME TO TELL YOU THAT HE WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND YOUR LITTLE GET-TOGETHER AS HE HAS MORE IMPORTANT BUSINESS OFF EARTH.
OH, AND DON'T BOTHER LOOKING FOR THE INFINITY WATCH, THOR, OR THE SILVER SURFER, AS WE ARE LIKEWISE ENGAGED.
UH, QUASAR? DID YOUR ATTENTION START TO WANDER OR ARE YOU TALKING TO SOMEBODY THE REST OF US CANNOT SEE?
MESSAGE RECEIVED, LADY.
(THIS QUASAR FELLOW IS AN ODD ONE, LAYNIA--EVEN BY AMERICAN STANDARDS.)
SORRY FOR THE INTERRUPTION. I JUST GOT A TELEPATHIC RSVP.
WHERE WAS I? OH, YEAH... THREE, THERE'S THIS ANCIENT ALIEN LIVING ON THE MOON, CALLED THE WATCHER, WHO'S ALSO MISSING.
'THOUGH THERE ARE NO WITNESSES, EVIDENCE POINTS TO ANOTHER ABDUCTION.
THE BOTTOM LINE IS WHOEVER HAS DONE THE THREE THINGS I JUST TOLD YOU ABOUT HAS POWER OUT THE WAZOO, AND EVEN MORE IF THEY MANAGE TO GET THE WOMAN'S POWER.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING THIS IS GOING TO BE BIGGER THAN I CAN EVEN GUESS.
I INTEND TO LEAD A SEARCH PARTY AND I'D LOVE TO HAVE ANY OR ALL OF YOU BE IN IT.
A VOYAGE INTO SPACE? SOUNDS LIKE IS FUN! PERUN SAYS WE SHALL ALL GO ALONG.
I OWE YOU ONE, QUASAR. COUNT ME IN.
YOU'VE GOTTEN MY CURIOSITY AROUSED, QUASAR!

THANKS, PEOPLE. I REALLY APPRECIATE THIS.
NOW LET ME JUST PUT AN AIRTIGHT DOME OVER THIS FLYING COMPACT DISC--
--AND WE'RE OFF--!
AND EVEN AS THE DOMED PLATFORM REACHES THE STRATOSPHERE...
HEY! HELLO THERE!
HI YOURSELF!
MY NAME'S NOVA. YOU--?
PHOENIX. YOU HEARD QUASAR'S MESSAGE, TOO, I TAKE IT?
YEAH. SO WHERE IS THE CAPED COSMOID?
I WOULD IMAGINE IN THAT GOLDEN DOME SOARING OUT OF SIGHT. WANT TO TRY CATCHING UP WITH IT?
NOT PARTICULARLY. I'VE JUST COME BACK FROM A SPACE TRIP AND I'M ALL SPACED OUT. HOW 'BOUT YOU?
I HAVE QUITE A LOT OF PERSONAL MATTERS TO ATTEND TO.
I'LL CLAIM WE GOT HERE TOO LATE TO CATCH UP WITH IT IF YOU WILL.
YOU HAVE A DEAL, NOVA.
HOPE WE RUN INTO EACH OTHER AGAIN!
WELL, NICE MEETING YOU, PHOENIX!
SO DO I.
WOW!

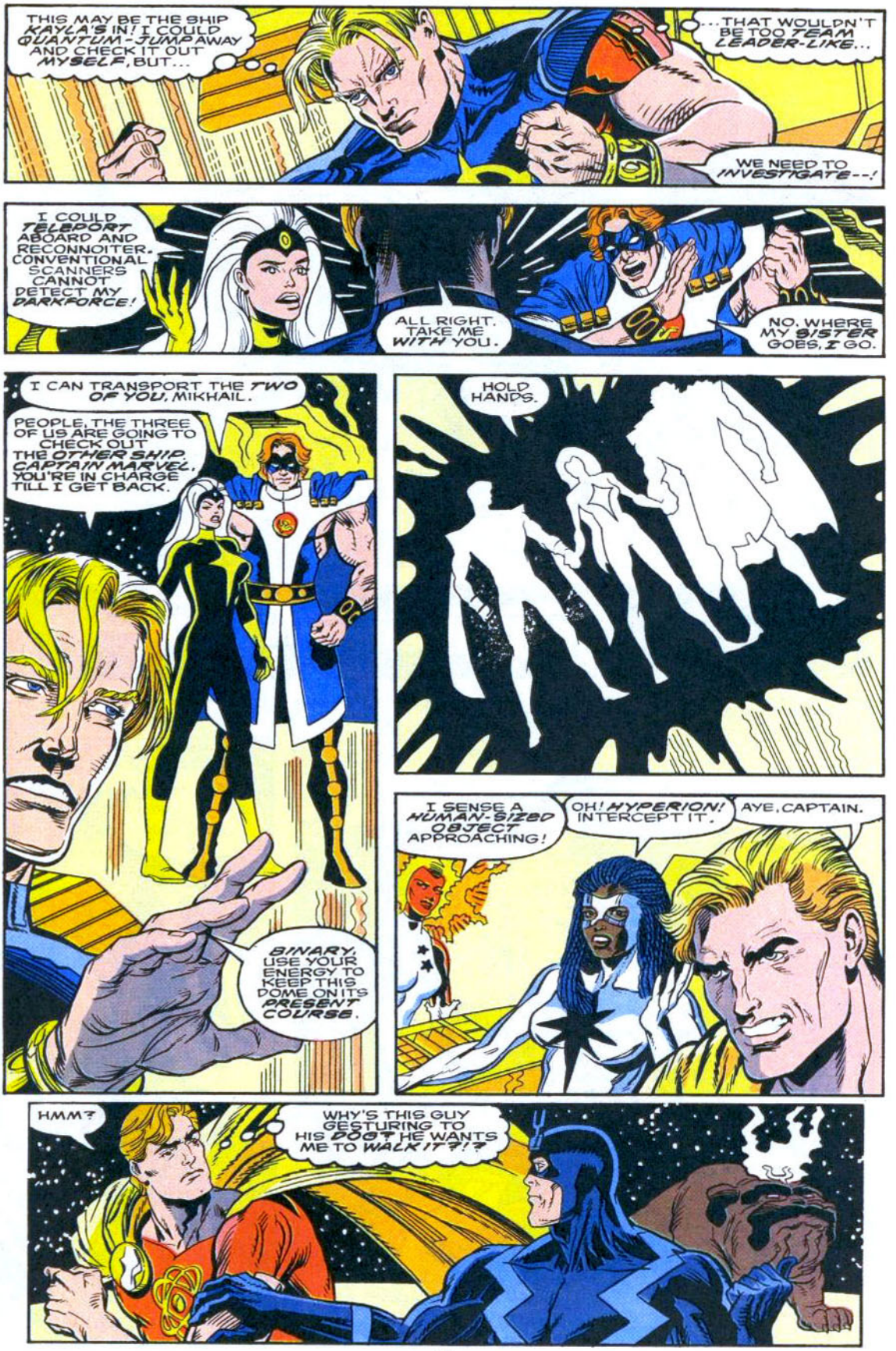
HEY WHAT'S THAT? AN AVENGERS QUINJET? SURE LOOKS LIKE IT.
GLAD TO KNOW I'M NOT THE ONLY JOHNNY-COME-LATELY.

I'LL JUST ZOOM BY--AND WHOA!
YOU'RE THE VISION, HUH?
YES, AND YOU ARE ONE OF THE NEW WARRIORS.
YEP. IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR QUASAR, YOU'RE TOO LATE. HE WENT THATAWAY.

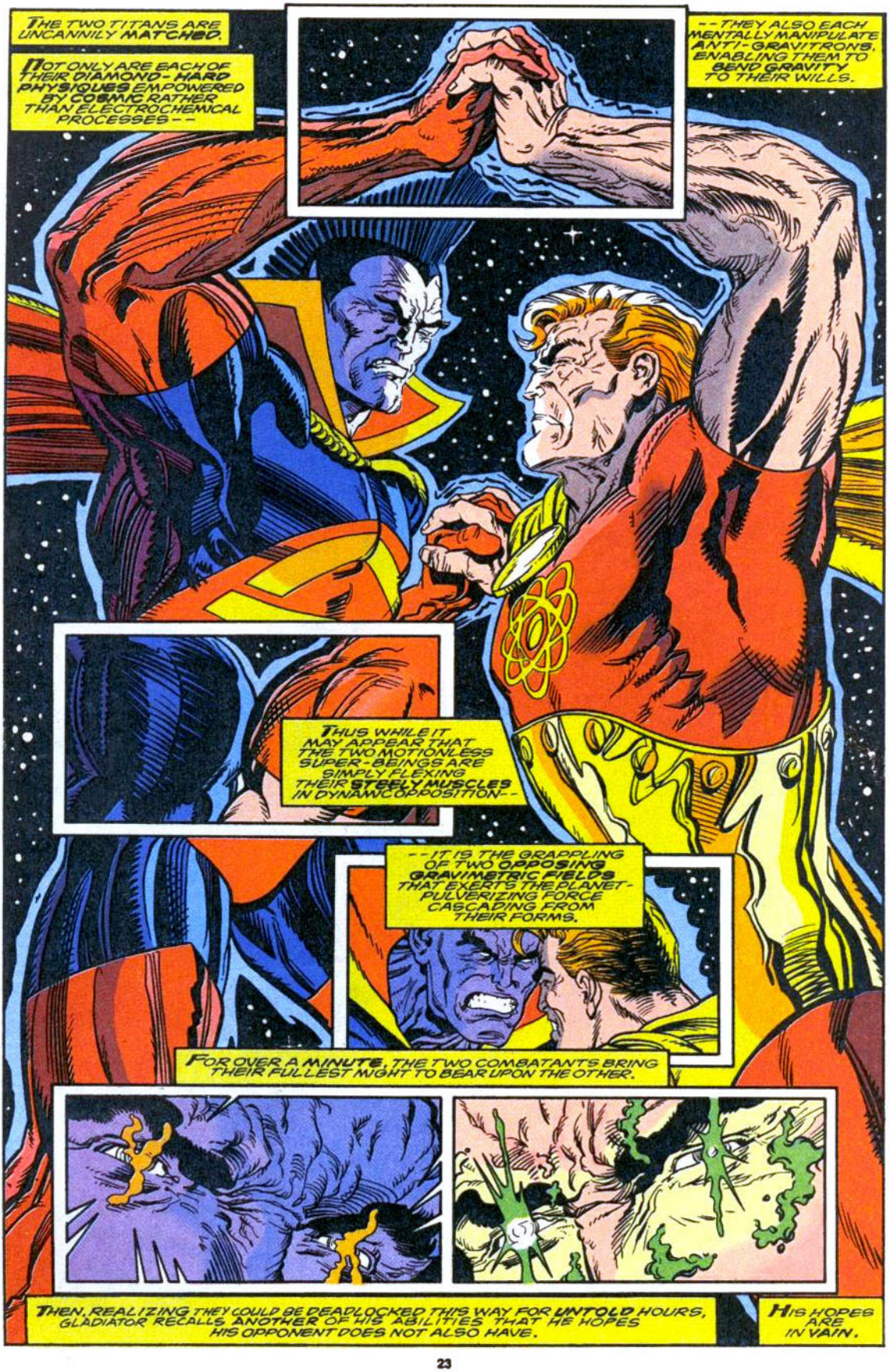

SPACE...
SO HOW LONG IS THE AIR GOING TO HOLD OUT, QUAS?

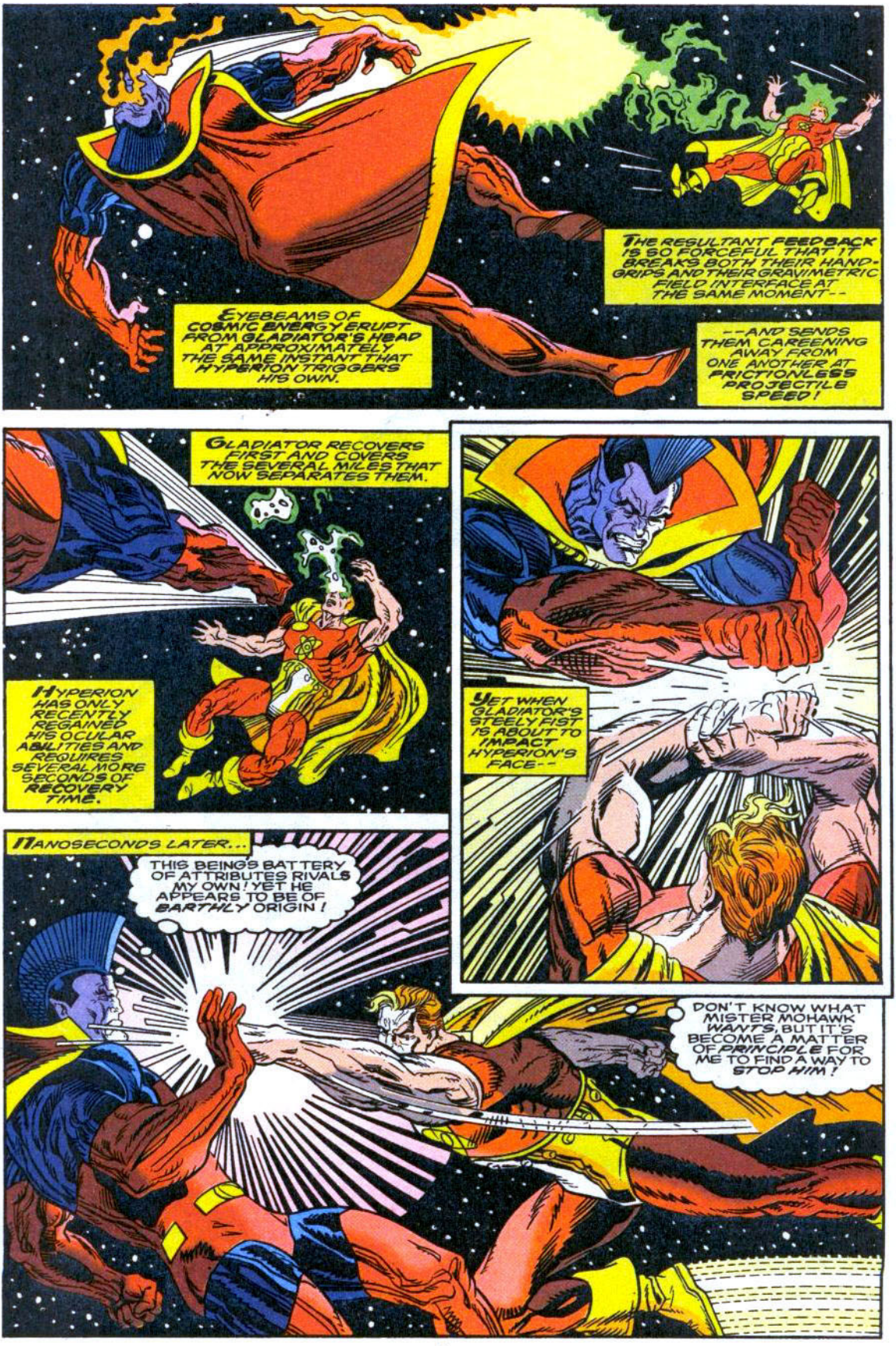
INDEFINITELY. I'VE GOT AN INTERSPATIAL PIPELINE TO A VERY OXYGEN-RICH POCKET OF ATMOSPHERE I SHUNT IN...
KEEP AN EYE ON PERLIN, LAYNIA. WE HAVE GOOD REASON NOT TO TRUST HIM.
DID ANYONE THINK TO BRING ALONG A DECK OF CARDS OR A MONOPOLY GAME?
NOT ME... WE COULD SWAP ORIGIN STORIES TO PASS THE TIME.
SPACE AGAIN AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS...IT REMINDS ME OF HOW MUCH I MISS THE STARJAMMERS.

THREE QUARTERS OF AN HOUR LATER...
QUASAR! I DETECT SOMETHING, A SHIP WITH STARDRIVE!
I'M PICKING IT UP TOO, BINARY.

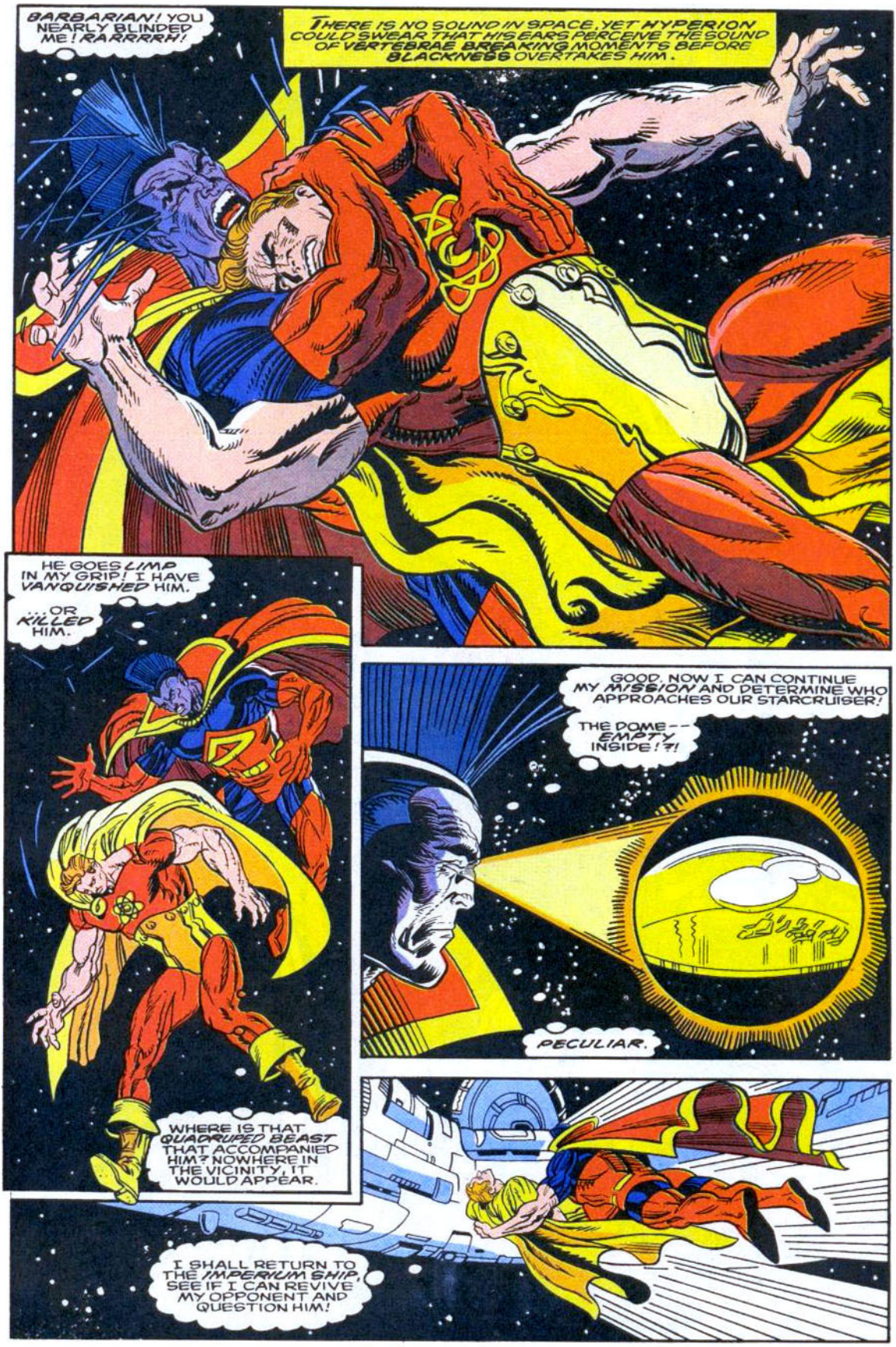

THIS MAY BE THE SHIP KAYLA'S IN! I COULD QUANTUM-JUMP AWAY AND CHECK IT OUT MYSELF, BUT...
...THAT WOULDN'T BE TOO TEAM LEADER-LIKE...
WE NEED TO INVESTIGATE--!
I COULD TELEPORT ABOARD AND RECONNOITER. CONVENTIONAL SCANNERS CANNOT DETECT MY DARKFORCE!
ALL RIGHT. TAKE ME WITH YOU.
NO. WHERE MY SISTER GOES, I GO.
I CAN TRANSPORT THE TWO OF YOU, MIKHAIL.
PEOPLE, THE THREE OF US ARE GOING TO CHECK OUT THE OTHER SHIP. CAPTAIN MARVEL, YOU'RE IN CHARGE TILL I GET BACK.
BINARY, USE YOUR ENERGY TO KEEP THIS DOME ON ITS PRESENT COURSE.
HOLD HANDS.
I SENSE A HUMAN-SIZED OBJECT APPROACHING!
OH! HYPERION! INTERCEPT IT.
AYE, CAPTAIN.
HMM?
WHY'S THIS GUY GESTURING TO HIS DOG? HE WANTS ME TO WALK IT?!?

NICE DOGGIE, NICE. UH, I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU WANT ME TO--
HEY, WHAT'S--?
WE'VE TELEPORTED OUTSIDE THE--
UH-OH!
?!?
THERE IS NO AIR IN SPACE TO PROPAGATE SOUND. THUS THIS MEETING OF AN IRRESISTIBLY FORCEFUL EXTRATERRESTRIAL AND AN IMMOVABLY STRONG EXTRADIMENSIONAL GOES UNACCOMPANIED BY THE CACOPHONOUS CRASH THAT SUCH AN IMPACT WOULD MAKE ON EARTH.
WHO IS THIS GUY!?! HE'S HUMANOID IN FORM BUT OF NO EARTHLY HUE!
AND THE STRENGTH OF HIS GRIP--! I HAVEN'T GRAPPLED WITH ANYONE WHO FELT THIS POWERFUL SINCE... HMM, MY EVIL DUPLICATE!*
*IN THE QUASI-CLASSIC SQUADRON SUPREME #8. --QUEASY-GABSIC MIKE

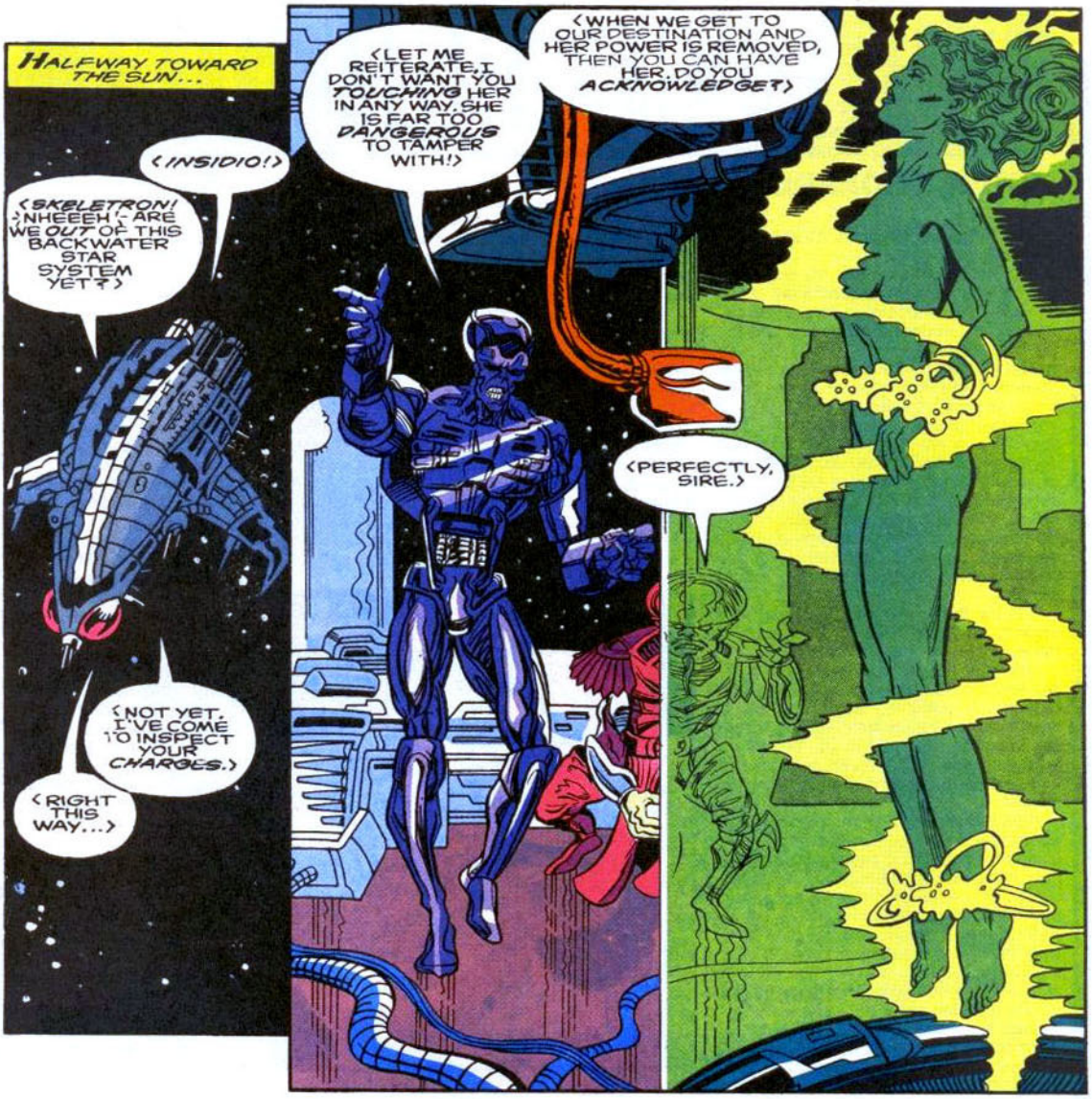

THE TWO TITANS ARE UNCANNILY MATCHED.
NOT ONLY ARE EACH OF THEIR DIAMOND-HARD PHYSIQUES EMPOWERED BY COSMIC RATHER THAN ELECTROCHEMICAL PROCESSES--
--THEY ALSO EACH MENTALLY MANIPULATE ANTI-GRAVITRONS, ENABLING THEM TO BEND GRAVITY TO THEIR WILLS.
THUS WHILE IT MAY APPEAR THAT THE TWO MOTIONLESS SUPER-BEINGS ARE SIMPLY FLEXING THEIR STEELY MUSCLES IN DYNAMIC OPPOSITION--
--IT IS THE GRAPPLING OF TWO OPPOSING GRAVIMETRIC FIELDS THAT EXERTS THE PLANET-PULVERIZING FORCE CASCADING FROM THEIR FORMS.
FOR OVER A MINUTE, THE TWO COMBATANTS BRING THEIR FULLEST MIGHT TO BEAR UPON THE OTHER.
THEN, REALIZING THEY COULD BE DEADLOCKED THIS WAY FOR UNTOLD HOURS, GLADIATOR RECALLS ANOTHER OF HIS ABILITIES THAT HE HOPES HIS OPPONENT DOES NOT ALSO HAVE.
HIS HOPES ARE IN VAIN.


EYEBEAMS OF COSMIC ENERGY ERUPT FROM GLADIATOR'S HEAD AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME INSTANT THAT HYPERION TRIGGERS HIS OWN.
THE RESULTANT FEEDBACK IS SO FORCEFUL THAT IT BREAKS BOTH THEIR HAND-GRIPS AND THEIR GRAVIMETRIC FIELD INTERFACE AT THE SAME MOMENT--
--AND SENDS THEM CAREENING AWAY FROM ONE ANOTHER AT FRICTIONLESS PROJECTILE SPEED!
GLADIATOR RECOVERS FIRST AND COVERS THE SEVERAL MILES THAT NOW SEPARATES THEM.
HYPERION HAS ONLY RECENTLY REGAINED HIS OCULAR ABILITIES AND REQUIRES SEVERAL MORE SECONDS OF RECOVERY TIME.
YET WHEN GLADIATOR'S STEELY FIST IS ABOUT TO IMPACT HYPERION'S FACE--
NANOSECONDS LATER...
THIS BEINGS BATTERY OF ATTRIBUTES RIVALS MY OWN! YET HE APPEARS TO BE OF EARTHLY ORIGIN!
DON'T KNOW WHAT MISTER MOHAWK WANTS, BUT IT'S BECOME A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE FOR ME TO FIND A WAY TO STOP HIM!

GREAT IRIDIUM, HOW'D HE--?!?
NOT ONLY IS HIS POWER A MATCH FOR MINE, BUT HE'S ALSO A SKILLED FIGHTER.
WHERE I'M FROM I ALMOST NEVER ENCOUNTERED ANYONE I COULD GO ALL-OUT WITH--
--SO I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO HONE MY BATTLE SKILLS PAST A CERTAIN POINT!
MOHAWK DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE HAD THAT PROBLEM.
THAT MEANS, I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO GET INVENTIVE!
IF THERE'S ANYTHING IN THE WORLD TOUGH ENOUGH TO HURT THIS GUY--
--MAYBE STEELY SPIKES PRODUCED BY HIS OWN BODY ARE IT!
DID I GET HIM?


BARBARIAN! YOU NEARLY BLINDED ME! RARRRRH!
THERE IS NO SOUND IN SPACE, YET HYPERION COULD SWEAR THAT HIS EARS PERCEIVE THE SOUND OF VERTEBRAE BREAKING MOMENTS BEFORE BLACKNESS OVERTAKES HIM.
HE GOES LIMP IN MY GRIP! I HAVE VANQUISHED HIM.
...OR KILLED HIM.
WHERE IS THAT QUADRUPED BEAST THAT ACCOMPANIED HIM? NOWHERE IN THE VICINITY, IT WOULD APPEAR.
GOOD. NOW I CAN CONTINUE MY MISSION AND DETERMINE WHO APPROACHES OUR STARCRUISER!
THE DOME-- EMPTY INSIDE!?!
PECULIAR.
I SHALL RETURN TO THE IMPERIUM SHIP, SEE IF I CAN REVIVE MY OPPONENT AND QUESTION HIM!

SOON...
‹GLADIATOR! INTRUDERS HAVE BOARDED THIS VESSEL!›
‹BEWARE!›
THE ASTROGATION DECK...
THIS VEHICLE HAS BEEN COMMANDEERED IN THE NAME OF THE EARTH!
SURRENDER YOUR PRISONER!
GRRRRR


HALFWAY TOWARD THE SUN...
〈INSIDIO!〉
〈SKELETRON! ;NHEEEEH !- ARE WE OUT OF THIS BACKWATER STAR SYSTEM YET?〉
〈NOT YET. I'VE COME TO INSPECT YOUR CHARGES.〉
〈RIGHT THIS WAY...〉
〈LET ME REITERATE, I DON'T WANT YOU TOUCHING HER IN ANY WAY. SHE IS FAR TOO DANGEROUS TO TAMPER WITH!〉
〈WHEN WE GET TO OUR DESTINATION AND HER POWER IS REMOVED, THEN YOU CAN HAVE HER. DO YOU ACKNOWLEDGE?〉
〈PERFECTLY, SIRE.〉

〈I AM QUITE CONTENT FOR THE DURATION TO PLY MY TRADE ON THIS DEAR FELLOW... THIS WATCHER.〉

THE EARTH'S WATCHER REMAINS MOTIONLESS. IF HIS THOUGHTS WERE KNOWABLE TO US, WE MIGHT LEARN THAT THE STARBLASTERS HAVE UNDERESTIMATED HIS ABILITIES.
HE COULD ESCAPE ANYTIME HE WISHES.
BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE UNIVERSE, THIS IS WHERE HE DESIRES TO BE RIGHT NOW.

END